



Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Geoff Spalding



NEWS RELEASE

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Illegal Mover Detail

On Tuesday, April 25, 2012 the Beaverton Police Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) conducted a joint operation focused on illegal household goods movers. Consumer protection is a key goal in this operation.

Four household goods movers were cited for operating in Oregon without complying with consumer protection and safety laws. Illegal household goods movers often advertise on websites or bulletin boards offering to help people move for a fee. Many consumers don't realize that these "companies" don't have legal operating authority or insurance and in some cases, safe vehicles and drivers. Consumers who choose an unlicensed mover whether intentionally or unintentionally may have little or no recourse for loss or damage to their property, may be charged higher than normal fees, and may be at higher risk for property or identity theft.

In Tuesday's operation Beaverton Police Traffic Officers and ODOT Motor Carrier Inspectors looked for two things. First, was the mover properly certified with the state to provide moving services? Second, was the mover's vehicle and driver properly registered with the state and was the vehicle in safe working condition.

ODOT Motor Carrier staff pre-identified non-certified moving "companies" then made appointments to meet at a decoy house. They were then met by ODOT inspectors and Beaverton Police Officers who checked drivers and equipment for any violations.

During Tuesday's operation there were three vehicle related violations and four vehicles were placed out of service for safety violations. 15 citations were issued for other violations including five for no valid ODOT permit, one citation for driving while suspended, one citation for no valid driver license, one for failure to provide proof of insurance and six citations for vehicle equipment violations. In addition, one person was arrested for possession of methamphetamine.

The best way for consumers can protect themselves during the moving process is to hire a certified moving company. Information, including consumer tips and a list of certified companies is available on the ODOT Motor Carrier Web site at:

[HTTP://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/MCT/MOVING.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/MCT/MOVING.shtml)

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